

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02506 231137Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SSO-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 EUR-12 SS-15 /058 W
-----107039 231140Z /15

O 231127Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4579

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EG. US

SUBJ: CIVAIR - U.S. PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 013830, (B) 77 CAIRO 18046

1. MFA OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS, AMB. DAOUD, DIRECTOR OF GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPT., IS BEING COY ON OFFICIALLY ACCEPTING VISIT OF U. S. TEAM IN MARCH. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JANUARY 21, HE INDICATED FIRST PRIORITY IN CONNECTION WITH ARRANGING TALKS IS CLARIFICATION OF BILATERAL ISSUES AND SUGGESTED EMBASSY DISCUSS PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHAIRMAN OF CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (CAA), GENERAL SHINNAWI. AMB. DAOUD POSED NO RPT NO SPECIFIC OBJECTION TO PROPOSED MARCH DATES, HOWEVER.

2. WE HAD ALREADY RAISED MATTER BRIEFLY WITH SHINNAWI, WHO AGREED ORALLY TO TALKS (BUT WHO DIRECTED US TO MFA FOR GOE CONCURRENCE). WE NOW HAVE TENTATIVE APPOINTMENT WITH SHINNAWI JANUARY 24 TO SOUND HIM OUT ON GOE PERCEPTION OF CONTENT OF NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL GET BACK TO MFA.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02506 231137Z

3. BELIEVE DEPARTMENT CAN PROCEED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ON ASSUMPTION THAT PROPOSED DATES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOE. WILL ADVISE DEFINITELY ASAP. REGARDING ISSUES AT HAND, ONLY IMMEDIATE ONE WE ARE AWARE OF IS RECENT TWA REQUEST TO CAA FOR INCREASED WEEKLY FLIGHT SCHEDULE, REQUEST WHICH WAS DENIED PENDING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

(SEE REF B AND PREVIOUS). GENERAL QUESTION OF TWA FLIGHTS AND COMPETITION WITH EGYPTAIR, AND POSSIBLY OTHER EGYPTIAN-FLAG OPERATIONS, PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED AS WELL. OUR FILES ON SUBJECT ARE INCOMPLETE, BUT DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT LAST FORMAL BILATERAL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD IN SEPTEMBER 1975 (SEE 75 CAIRO 9244). SINCE THEN, TWA SERVICE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO TOTAL OF 11 FLIGHTS WEEKLY, INCLUDING NY-PARIS-CAIRO RUN, WITHOUT BENEFIT OF SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE AGREED UPON AT THAT TIME. (NOTE: INTERVENTION OF AMBASSADOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WAS KEY ELEMENT IN CONVINCING GOE TO ACQUIESCE IN NEW ROUTE AND INCREASED NUMBER OF FLIGHTS. MFA GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPT. IS WELL INFORMED ON PAST NEGOTIATIONS, BUT NOT, EVIDENTLY, ON DETAILS OF LATER AGREEMENTS TO ADDED TWA FLIGHTS GRANTED BY CAA.)

4. ON LOGISTICS OF NEGOTIATING TEAM VISIT, WE ARE SEEKING HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS THUS FAR. U. S. TEAM POSSIBLY WILL HAVE TO DOUBLE UP AT EMBASSY GUEST HOUSE. WILL INFORM FURTHER IN THAT REGARD. EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER IS E/C COUNSELOR HENRY E. MATTOX. SUGGEST HE BE OFFICIALLY INCLUDED IN CONSULTATIONS IF FEASIBLE. ADVISE. EILTS

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